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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

From: Carmel Budiardjo

Date/Time : 6.00 pm / 3 Aug 90 Fax no.: 0103511 534009

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COMMENTS/MESSAGE

Dear Lisa,
Herewith the Briefing Paper for the Mission. Tonight & over the weekend, I am staying at 081-940 3254
Could you phone me there? Carmel

Parliamentarians for East Timor

244A Upper Street, London N1 1RU

Briefing paper

for the Parliamentarians for East Timor Mission to meet Mr Peres de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 31 August 1990

1 General Assembly Resolution 37/30 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 4 November 1982 states among other things, that

The General Assembly,

Recognising the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to East Timor [Document No. A/37/23/ (Part V), chapter X] and

.....

1. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem, and to report to the General Assembly at its 38th session,

2. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to keep the situation in the Territory under active consideration and to render all assistance to the Secretary-General with a view to facilitating the implementation of the present resolution....

Founder Members
Satsuki Eda MHR (Japan), Tony Lamb MHR (Australia), Lord Avebury (UK)
Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

II. We will ask the Secretary-General whether he agrees that the resolution requires him to consult with representatives of the people of East Timor as well as representatives of Portugal and Indonesia, and if not, how 'all parties directly concerned' can be construed as excluding the people themselves.

III. The Foreign Minister of Portugal has made it clear that the Portuguese government believes that it is for the Secretary-General to decide 'on which interlocutors will be included in the consultations'. The Foreign Minister's statement was as follows:

I think that any solution which we must try to reach by means of negotiation for the question of East Timor will always have to take into account, in order to be effective and to offer peace and tranquility to the territory, the general consent of the population and, in particular, of those who continue to fight, with great suffering, for their rights. Otherwise, the experience shows that the conflict will continue with its sequence of human rights violations and consequently the suffering of the people of East Timor. From our part, we have regularly and at several levels maintained contact with their representatative movements in order to know their views and their sensitivity about the situation and about the action we have been undertaking.

The Secretary-General being responsible for the mandate entrusted to him by the General Assembly, it is for him to decide on his own action, on which interlocutors will be included in the consultations and and on the opportune moment for their intervention in the process. We do not consider it necessary at the moment to raise the subject with Ambassador Peres de Cuellar.
[Statement of the Foreign Minister in a recent interview with a Portuguese newspaper, quoted in a letter from the Portuguese Embassy in London, to TAPOL, dated 16 July 1990.]

IV. For several years, consultations at the UN between the Indonesian and Portuguese governments have focused solely on reaching agreement about a proposed visit to East Timor by a group of Portuguese parliamentarians. The negotiations about the terms of the visit have been protracted. Even now, when agreement appeared to have been reached, the Indonesian government has reportedly raised new obstacles; as a result, the visit is almost certain not to take place this year.

The people of East Timor are anxious for the visit to take place; the leader of the armed resistance, Xanana Gusmao, strongly supports the visit. People in East Timor plan to use it as an occasion to demonstrate their hope for concrete action by Portugal and the UN to facilitate their right to self-determination, as they tried to use the visits to East Timor by the Pope and the US